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## **GLORIA MOLINA DEMANDS SHERIFF PATROL EQUITY FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

### **Unincorporated Areas Shortchanged' Due to Sheriff Mismanagement**

LOS ANGELES (January 29, 2012)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina announced today that the Board of Supervisors had “no other choice” but to give unincorporated residents the power to secure law enforcement service levels the way independent municipalities do. Today’s directive by the Board of Supervisors – potentially allowing unincorporated areas to establish Community Service Districts – comes on the heels of a critical audit by the county’s Auditor-Controller which found that the Sheriff’s response to emergency calls in unincorporated areas was 17 percent longer than in contract cities. Just last week, the Board of Supervisors learned that on Jan.13, station captains were ordered not to use overtime dollars – effectively cutting patrol services for unincorporated neighborhoods. Consequently, unincorporated South and West Whittier patrols cars went from 12 to six; unincorporated Basset and the Valinda Corridor went from five cars to two; unincorporated East Los Angeles lost a patrol car in each shift, as did unincorporated Azusa, Claremont, as well as Pomona; and, in most every case, two-person patrol cars were reduced to one-person cars.

“When you take a car out in the P.M. shift – when you take two-man cars and make them one-man cars – these are service cuts that are fairly dramatic,” Molina said. “The Sheriff points to low crime rates as justification for why he can reduce patrol in unincorporated areas but crime rates are low precisely because we have a consistent level of patrol. His temporary solution has been to take deputies assigned to anti-gang units and put them on street patrol – which is not a solution at all. It’s robbing Peter to pay Paul.”

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Molina also noted that, over the last three years, the Board of Supervisors has authorized judgments, settlements, attorney's fees, and other legal costs totaling over \$100 million due to use of force lawsuits against the Sheriff's Department. In addition, the supervisors paid \$18 million in liability costs to the contract cities trust fund.

"Already, Sheriff Baca's mismanagement of deputies is costing us millions of dollars," Molina said. "Now we're encountering mismanagement of patrol hours – the most basic function of law enforcement. Sheriff Baca's excuse is that budget cuts are to blame but unincorporated patrol comprises less than 19 percent of his \$2.6 billion annual budget. He continually makes good on his promises to contract cities. But he has broken his word to residents of unincorporated areas – and he's done so for the last time. Unincorporated areas are being shortchanged by the Sheriff, and it's got to stop."

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